

What a hobby we have! The glories of nature, such as sunsets, butterflies, the view from many a height, a full moon shining on a becalmed sea, indeed most of our entomological haunts make us pause and ask: Why? Wherefrom? To what purpose? Happy is the man or woman who can find satisfaction in reflecting on such things, and rejoice in the answer he gives.

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AGRIOPIS MARGINARIA FAB. F. FUSCATA MOSLEY IN N.W. KENT. — Further to Dr. de Worms' note (*Ent. Rec.*, 88:156), I have a single example of f. *fuscata* Mosley which came to a Heath trap in my garden at Orpington, Kent on 25th March, 1974. Although this is the only "melanic" Dotted Border I have seen in this area, it is perhaps of interest that about a third of the individuals of *marginaria* taken in the garden have the forewings more or less suffused with the brownish scales typical of f. *fuscata*, although the hindwings are "typical". — P. A. SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent, 6.vii.1976.

REARING THE GLOW-WORM, LAMPYRIS NOCTILUCA L. — Further to my article published under this title in the March 1976 *Entomologist's Record*, I can now report that one of my two remaining larvae, produced from ova laid in 1973, metamorphosed in May 1976—a four-year cycle as compared with the three summers of the others in the batch. One of the larvae died, but the other, after ceasing to feed for a lengthy period, changed its skin again on August 20th, 1975. I had some difficulty in finding suitable snails during the autumn and winter, but in any case the larva fed only very occasionally during this period. On April 16th, 1976, I found the larva lying on its back with its legs extended, totally immobile, except for the fact that it would glow strongly if disturbed, especially if blown upon. On the 17th it pupated: a male. At first the abdomen was a pretty pale pink in colour, darkening later, the thoracic shield and elytra greyish. Like the pupating larva, the pupa glowed strongly (from a pair of tiny areas on the last segment of the abdomen) if disturbed, and several times during succeeding days there appeared a large drop of translucent excretory fluid at the vent. I noted that the pupa appeared to prefer lying on its back, since when I moved it, experimentally, on its side it had later returned to its former position; obviously this allows for freer development. The pupa produced an imago on May 8th, 1976. On emergence the abdomen was greatly extended beyond the tip of the elytra, but later was retracted to a more normal length. The elytra also darkened much later than the abdomen. Regrettably, all the larvae, hatched from ova incestuously produced in 1975, died through my inability to find suitable very small snails during autumn and winter. — ANTHONY WOOTTON, 40 Roundhill, Stone, near Aylesbury, Bucks., HP17 8RD.